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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 12, 2003, claims 1-20 are pending. The Office Action states that claims 1-11 and claims 12-20 are directed to separate and distinct inventions and for that reason an election is required and a restriction for examination purposes is proper.

The Office Action groups claims 1-20 into Group I having claims 1-11, which are drawn to a superconducting magnet support structure, and Group II having claims 12-20, which are drawn to a method of fabricating a superconducting magnet support structure and to a superconducting magnet support structure formed according to the same. Applicants elect Group II with traverse.

The Applicants submit that although claims 1-11 and claims 12-20 may be directed towards distinct inventions, each invention is sufficiently similar in material content such that in processing the invention of claims 1-11 a prior art search for element limitations contained in claim 12-20 would also need to be searched and vice versa. Applicants, respectfully, direct the Examiner to the recitation of claim 20, which recites a superconducting magnet support structure formed according to the method of claim 12. In examining claim 20 the Examiner would need to review references in both class 335, subclass 299, and in class 29, subclass 599. It would therefore not be further burdensome to process claims 12-20 in addition to that of claims 1-11.

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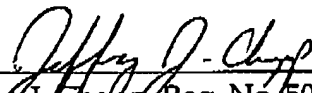
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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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